

Juanita High School Incoming Sophomore-- Summer Reading



RATIONALE: The Juanita High School learning community encourages all of its students to develop into thoughtful, avid readers. With this aim, the staff is asking all incoming sophomores to read one of the two books described below and complete the two assignments listed.

All of the local book stores and libraries will be given the list of books and will have them available. We hope that you enjoy your summer reading!

Choose between **one** of these three books.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

In Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees*, 14-year-old Lily Owen, neglected by her father and isolated on their Georgia peach farm, spends hours imagining a blissful infancy when she was loved and nurtured by her mother, Deborah, whom she barely remembers. The search for a mother, and the need to mother oneself, are crucial elements in this well-written coming-of-age story set in the early 1960s against a background of racial violence and unrest. When Lily's beloved nanny, Rosaleen, manages to insult a group of angry white men on her way to register to vote and has to skip town, Lily takes the opportunity to go with her, fleeing to the only place she can think of--Tiburon, South Carolina--determined to find out more about her dead mother. *The Secret Life of Bees* is a carefully crafted novel with an inspired depiction of character. --Regina Marler --This text refers to the [Hardcover edition](#). —Amazon.com Review

Into Thin Air by John Krakauer

Into Thin Air is a riveting first-hand account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest. In March 1996, *Outside* magazine sent veteran journalist and seasoned climber Jon Krakauer. His book is at once the story of the ill-fated adventure and an analysis of the factors leading up to its tragic end. Written within months of the events it chronicles, *Into Thin Air* clearly evokes the majestic Everest landscape. As the journey up the mountain progresses, Krakauer puts it in context by recalling the triumphs and perils of other Everest trips throughout history. The author's own anguish over what happened on the mountain is palpable as he leads readers to ponder timeless questions.. --Brad Thomas Parsons

Stardust by Neil Gaiman

Stardust combines the tradition of The Lord of the Rings trilogy with the modern feel of movies like The Princess Bride and The Never Ending Story. The story is by turns wonderfully scary and very funny. The plot that concerns a young man literally in search of a falling star is filled with a variety of witches, princes, trolls, warlocks and fairies. *Stardust* is a wild fantasy adventure story that you will long remember!

Sophomore Summer Reading Assignment

After you finish reading your book, complete the following assignment.

Assignment #1

Divide your book into approximately 3 sections of equal length. After each section is read, record some notes that reflect your reactions to your chosen book.

- Are you enjoying the reading? Why or why not?
- What major themes, ideas or commentary on modern life emerge through the writing?
- Are you learning anything new from your reading?
- Copy down some favorite passages from your book and the page numbers on which they appear.

Be prepared to write a paper from your notes the first week of your fall semester at Juanita.

**We value your integrity.
Plagiarism and cheating will result
in an irrevocable score of zero.**